

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 260930Z AUG 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556
SECDEL TOKYO
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1886

DEPT PASS USIA FOR IPS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), CH, US

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S PRC VISIT; TS'AN-K'AO
HSIAO-HSI

1. SUMMARY. IN ITS AUGUST 20 AND AUGUST 23 ISSUES THE
RESTRICTED REFERENCE NEWS INFORMED PRC CITIZENS OF
AUGUST 18 COMMENTS BY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE
SECRETARY'S THEN IMMINENT PRC VISIT, PROVIDED DETAILED
COVERAGE OF THE US POSITION, AND NOTED SECRETARY VANCE'S
AUGUST 21 STOPOVER IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY

2. PRC'S RESTRICTED FOREIGN PRESS DIGEST REFERENCE
NEWS (TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI, CIRCULATION 9,000,000) ON
AUGUST 20 CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM AN AUGUST 18 REPORT
OUTLINING THE COMMENTS OF UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
ON SECRETARY VANCE'S THEN IMMINENT VISIT TO THE PRC.
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THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "MODEST GOALS SET FOR VANCE
CHINA TRIP," NOTED THE OFFICIALS' COMMENTS THAT THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF
THE NEW LEADERSHIP. THEREFORE, THEY COULD NOT PREDICT
THAT A FRAMEWORK WOULD BE PRODUCED FOR IMPLEMENTING
NORMALIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WOULD BE TO
ASCERTAIN PRC ATTITUDES AND DISCUSS WORLD ISSUES.

3. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON SINO-US NORMALIZATION:

-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ADHERES TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE BUT HAS NO SENSE OF URGENCY NOR TIMETABLE;

-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REMAINS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN PROBLEM;
-- CONTRARY TO PRESS SPECULATION THERE IS NO ONE IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHO IS PREPARED TO GIVE UP SEEKING PEKING'S ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD NOT USE FORCE TO SOLVE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM;

-- ON THE BASIS OF TALKS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND US PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HOPED THAT NO STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD TAIWAN -- WITH WHICH WASHINGTON HAS MAINTAINED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS;

-- BECAUSE OF THIS, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS BUT NOT ABANDON TAIWAN.

4. THE OFFICIALS ALSO STATED THAT EVEN IF NORMALIZATION ISSUES DID NOT COME UP, THEY FELT THE TRIP WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE WORTHWHILE. NEVERTHELESS, VANCE WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES AS WELL AS WORLD ISSUES. WORLD ISSUES WILL INCLUDE KOREA, SOUTHEAST ASIA (AND VIETNAM), AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, US-SOVIET RELATIONS, THE INDIAN OCEAN, ARMS LIMITATION, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE BILATERAL ISSUES WILL INCLUDE NORMALIZATION, TRADE, CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS. THE OFFICIALS CONTINUED, THE CHINESE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. THE OFFICIALS HOPED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE US POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ARTICLE ENDS WITH VANCE'S JUNE 29 STATEMENT ON THE CHINA QUESTION (A DIRECT QUOTE). THE REFERENCE NEWS PIECE IS AN ALMOST COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF AN AUGUST 18 IPS ARTICLE LEAVING OUT ONLY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AS BEING "MORE CLEAN" THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND A STATEMENT THAT THE CHINESE WANT A MORE ACTIVE US ROLE IN AFRICA.

5. THE AUGUST 23 ISSUE CARRIES A NUMBER OF ARTICLES

RELATING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP INCLUDING EXCERPTS
FROM AN AUGUST 20 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY MURRY
MARDER, AP AND UPI ACCOUNTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S
AUGUST 21 STOPOVER IN TOKYO, AN AUGUST 21 LONDONOBSERVER ARTICLE ("
IF VANCE'S VISIT TO CHINA FAILS,
THEN AMERICAN POLICY WILL FACE DANGERS"), AN
AUGUST 19 EDITORIAL FROM TAIPEI'S CENTRAL DAILY NEWS
("JUST AND SINCERE ACTION") AND A SHORT CENTRAL
NEWS (TAIWAN) ITEM NOTING A STATEMENT BY AN ROC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN UNDERSCORING
ROC OPPOSITION TO US CONTACTS WITH CHINESE
COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES.

6. REFERENCE NEWS' COVERAGE OF THE WASHINGTON POST
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ARTICLE ALSO CITED AN UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL
AS STATING THAT IF THE TALKS PRODUCE A NEW BASIS FOR
EXPANDNING RELATIONS, THEN AN IMPORTANT OBSTACLE
BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING WILL BE REMOVED. THE
ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE US HOLDS THE VIEW THAT IT
CANNOT "ABANDON TAIWAN," AND CAN ARRANGE A COMPROMISE
IN WHICH PEKING WOULD RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE OR
PRESSURE TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF TAIWAN'S SECURITY AND
ECONOMY. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THIS IS SOME-
THING NEITHER NIXON NOR FORD COULD ACHIEVE, AND
STATED THAT US OFFICIALS ARE AVOIDING OPTIMISTIC
PREDICTIONS.

7. EXCERPTS FROM THE AUGUST 21 LONDON OBSERVER
ARTICLE NOTED THAT VANCE'S DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING AND
COULD CHANGE THE TRIPOLAR BALANCE OF POWER, EVEN TO
THE EXTENT OF HAVING DEEP AND FAR-REACHING INFLUENCE
ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT DOAK BARNETT AND
STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FEEL THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD
NORMALIZATION WOULD GIVE AMERICAN AND WORLD PUBLIC
OPINION THE IMPRESSION THAT TAIWAN IS BEING "SOLD
OUT". THEREFORE, THIS COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER DEBATE
IN THE UNITED STATES OVER "WHO LOST CHINA".

8. COPIES OF THE TWO ISSUES BEING POUCHED TO HONGKONG
AND DEPARTMENT.
WOODCOCK

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